

attempts to "play off sick" (to escape labor) which make him skeptical where the ailment is not actually perceptible.

*June Nineteenth!* A day memorable in American History; for on this day the first skirmish of the Revolutionary War, and the first in our Civil War (the attack on the Massachusetts Regt. in Baltimore) took place.

It is also memorable in my own personal history as the day on which I was released from Fort Delaware Military Prison in 1865, after 13 months confinement. Strange enough I have this morning found a sketch of our Barracks as they were then. The buildings were of rough planks, making one continuous hall subdivided into "divisions" for 100 men, each. The black looking space in the picture is to represent water, a slimy filthy "back water" from the river which gave an offensive odor in summer, and was frozen in winter; and being the only fluid allowed us for washing purposes, was excreted by all the prisoners. On the fence may be seen the sentinel who occasionally fired on us, sometimes for throwing water in the ditch after using it, and sometimes for not doing so. The yard contained about two acres, but was full of holes, the breathing places of huge Norway Rats, which many of the prisoners daily caught, skinned, and ate! I once tried to take a bite of rat soup; but could not accomplish it; although the cooked rodents looked as white and nice as squirrels.

During this long imprisonment I suffered much from hunger, thirst and cold; for we received but six crackers per day, and a morsel of spoiled meat; and were often without palatable drinking water, and few of us had more than one blanket, and very little underclothing; to say nothing of other annoyances. Yet Fort Delaware life was happiness in comparison to my existence here. For there were 2500 of us (officers) and no bar to amusement so far as we were capable of originating amusements among ourselves; and there was the stimulant of the feeling that we were undergoing hardships for the good of our Country, and to our own future honor.